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*Bambuseæ of British India*, or, to make a long story short, the other members of this remarkable series. Like its predecessors, the eighth volume is well printed, and in a portion of the edition certain parts of each plate are colored so as to represent the natural tints of the flowers.

T.

**Dr. J. W. Harshberger**, who made an incursion into Mexico in 1896, has recently published a paper entitled "Botanical Observations on the Mexican Flora, especially on the Flora of the Valley of Mexico,"<sup>1</sup> in which he gives an annotated list of the plants found in the latter region, prefaced by a short diary and a topographic account of the district. Additional lists are also given for Orizaba and Cordoba. Unfortunately for ordinary use, the catalogue is broken up into a number of separate lists, classified according to habitat, instead of being consolidated into a single enumeration with the ecological information arranged under the several species.

T.

**Botanical Notes.**—*Apios Priceana* is the name given by Dr. Robinson, in the *Botanical Gazette* for June, to a very interesting plant from Kentucky, discovered by Miss Sadie F. Price, who appears to be making a thorough study of the flora about Bowling Green.

*Curtis's Botanical Magazine* for October contains a plate of *Ame-lanchier Canadensis* var. *oblongifolia*, which is sometimes treated by botanists as a distinct species.

The *Nepenthes* of Australia are discussed by F. M. Bailey in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* for October. Five cuts, illustrating the leaves of as many species, are given.

A fifth contribution to the knowledge of *Melocacti*, by the late Professor Suringar, appears in Vol. vi of the *Verslagen* of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Amsterdam.

*Opuntia Galapagia* is well figured in its natural surroundings in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of October 8, in connection with a short note on the cacti of the Galapagos Islands, by Mr. Hemsley.

"The Date Palm" is the subject of *Bulletin No. 29* of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, by Professor Toumey, who concludes that southern Arizona has the requisite climate and soil conditions necessary for a profitable cultivation of this tree for the production of fruit on a commercial scale.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, Philadelphia, August, 1898.

A comparative histological study of *Veratrum viride* and *V. album* is published by R. H. Denniston in No. 3 of the current volume of *Pharmaceutical Archives*.

"Economic Grasses" is the title of *Bulletin No. 14* of the Division of Agrostology of the United States Department of Agriculture. The paper is virtually an abbreviated edition of *Bulletin No. 3* of the same Division, and, like that, is well illustrated, a number of good half-tone plates being introduced into the present edition. Professor Scribner appears as its author.

Nos. 9 and 10 of the first Abtheilung of the *Botanische Zeitung* for 1898 contain a study of the male prothallus of Hydropterides, by Belajeff.

In the *Jahrbücher für Wissenschaftliche Botanik*, Vol. xxxii, Heft 3, Heinricher publishes a second paper on "Die grünen Halb-schmarotzer," dealing with the genera *Euphrasia*, *Alectorolophus*, and *Odontites*.

Rimbach contributes an extensive illustrated article on the growth of rhizomes to a characteristic depth in the soil, to Fünfstücks *Beiträge zur Wissenschaftlichen Botanik*, Vol. iii, Abteilung 1, in continuation of an article in the preceding volume of the same publication on contractile roots and their action.

The possible fiber industries of the United States is the subject of an illustrated article, by C. R. Dodge, in *Popular Science Monthly* for November.

The *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* for October devotes something over forty pages to papers by Mr. Burbidge on perfumes, and the plants which afford them, an important part of the collection being a list of books on perfumes.

Twelve of Idaho's worst weeds are described and figured by Professor Henderson in *Bulletin No. 14* of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Idaho. The article is prefaced by an account of the source and mode of dispersal of weeds.

Instructive little handbooks by Dr. Niederlein on the Republic of Guatemala, the State of Nicaragua, and the Republic of Costa Rica have recently been issued by the Philadelphia Commercial Museum. Their scope, while ultimately economic, includes topography, geology, soil, flora, and fauna, so they should be of value to scientific trav-

elers as well as to persons directly interested in the development of the countries of which they treat.

The *Botanical Gazette* for October contains a sketch, by Mr. Norton, of the life of the late Joseph F. Joor, a botanist of Texas and Louisiana.

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#### PETROGRAPHY.

**The Lavas of Two Volcanoes in the Eifel.**—The lavas of the small volcanoes Hochsimmer and Bellerberg, near Mayen, in the Eifel, were thought to be similar in composition by the earlier geologists. Schottler,<sup>1</sup> however, reports the Hochsimmer lava to be a porphyritic leucitite with phenocrysts of augite, biotite, olivine, and hauyne in a groundmass composed of leucite, augite, and glass. The Bellerberg lavas are augite-andesites, with phenocrysts of augite and biotite in a groundmass composed of augite, plagioclase, a little leucite, and glass. Olivine, hauyne, and quartz are also present in some specimens as porphyritic crystals. The rock approaches in character the tephrites. Large numbers of inclusions are imbedded in the lavas. Some of them are unquestionably endogenous, while others are certainly exogenous. A few consisting of single minerals exhibit no evidence as to their origin. All have been deeply corroded by the action of the enclosing magma. The isolated minerals represented among the foreign inclusions are: hauyne, zircon, corundum, garnet, olivine, feldspar, and quartz. The rock inclusions are fragments of graywackes, slates, quartz-feldspar-aggregates, cordierite and sillimanite-bearing schists, hornblende-schists and biotite-schists, augite-feldspar-aggregates, limestone, and sanidine-aggregates. The limestone inclusions often contain cavities, and in these crystals of chalcophyllite, ettringite, and quartz have been deposited. The action of the magma on the limestone is seen in the formation of feldspars, augite, and glass in the rock surrounding the inclusion, and in the production of wollastonite, quartz, and nepheline in the inclusion itself.

**A Sedimentary Granite.**—Professor Winchell<sup>2</sup> points out the fact that the oldest rocks in Minnesota are the archæan greenstones. The granites which intrude these are believed to be fused sediments.

<sup>1</sup> *Neues Jahrb. f. Min.* etc., Beil. Bd. xi, p. 554.

<sup>2</sup> *Amer. Geologist*, vol. xxii, p. 299.